



PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Memo

To: Members of the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee

CC: John Turcotte, Director, Program Evaluation Division

From: Catherine Moga Bryant, Senior Program Evaluator

Date: March 27, 2012

Re: Follow-up questions re the Program Evaluation Division's March 2012 aircraft report

On March 14, 2012, the Program Evaluation Division reported its follow-up to two reports released in 2010: *Selling 25 Underutilized Aircraft may Yield Up to \$8.1 Million and Save \$1.5 Million Annually* and *Follow-Up Analysis of 25 Underutilized State Aircraft Confirmed Inefficiency and Potential Costs Savings*. The following are answers to the committee's questions on state aircraft.

1. How much would it have cost last year if the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) contracted for the flight hours of its King Air?

SBI and Department of Transportation (DOT) both own Beechcraft King Air aircraft. DOT charges \$700 per hour for the use of its King Air by other state agencies. If SBI had used the DOT King Air for all its flight hours in Calendar Year 2011 it would have cost SBI \$83,930. This amount represents a \$101,802 cost savings compared with what SBI spent to operate its King Air for 119.9 hours in Calendar Year 2011.

2. How much did the Department of Transportation (DOT) Sikorsky helicopter fly in prior years?

The April 2010 report by the Program Evaluation Division reported that the State's helicopter flew an average of 86 hours during Fiscal Years 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-19. The table below provides a breakout for each year.

Fiscal Year	Flight hours
2006-07	121.9
2007-08	102.3
2008-09	33.3

3. Are there helicopters available in North Carolina that could be rented for use by the State?

No companies in North Carolina rent the same type of Sikorsky helicopter operated by DOT. One Charlotte-area company rents a Bell Long Ranger helicopter that seats six and costs \$1,800 per hour. Unlike the DOT Sikorsky helicopter, this aircraft is single engine and requires the use of a headset for conversation during flight. DOT would have to pay the cost of ferrying the helicopter to Raleigh, estimated at an additional \$3,600 in cost per trip. This helicopter is currently out of commission due to difficulties in securing parts, but is expected to be operating in the near future.